Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1-2 (cancelled).

3 (currently amended). The method of Claim ~~30~~ 8 wherein ~~each image is divided into~~ said step (b) comprises dividing each image into a configuration of 4x4 or 3x3 blocks.

4-7 (cancelled).

8 (original). A method for detecting duplicate images comprising the steps of:

(a) providing a plurality of images captured at determinable times;

(b) dividing each image into an X number of blocks, wherein one or more blocks represent a central area and a foreground area;

(c) computing histograms for each block of each image, and block histogram intersection values obtained from comparisons between histograms from corresponding blocks from each image;

(d) determining whether each block histogram intersection value for at least those blocks surrounding the central area is higher than a threshold T_1, and determining whether the number of intersection values below the threshold T_1 are not greater than a certain number N;

(e) computing an average histogram intersection value of the foreground area, and determining whether the average block histogram intersection value of the foreground area is not lower than a threshold T_2;

(f) determining whether the average histogram intersection value of the foreground is higher than a threshold T_3;

(g) determining whether an average of the X number of block histogram intersection values is higher than a threshold T_4;

(h) determining whether the average of the X number of block histogram intersection values is higher than a threshold T_5;

(i) determining whether the time difference between capture of the images is less than a threshold T_6;

(j) determining whether the average of the X number of block histogram intersection values is higher than a threshold T_7; and

(k) determining whether the time difference between the capture of the images is less than a threshold T_8; and

(l) utilizing the determinations made in steps (d) through (k) to determine if any of the images are duplicates.

9 (original). The method as recited in claim 8 wherein said step (h) further provides that $T_5<T_4$.

10 (original). The method as recited in claim 8 wherein said step (j) further provides that $T_5<T_4<T_7$.

11 (original). The method as recited in claim 8 wherein said step (k) further provides that $T_6<T_8$.

12 (original). The method as recited in claim 8 wherein said step (b) comprises dividing each image into a configuration of 4x4 or fewer blocks.

13 (original). The method as recited in claim 12 wherein said step (b) comprises dividing each image into a configuration of 3x3 blocks.

14 (original). A method for detecting duplicate images comprising the steps of:

(a) providing a plurality of images;

(b) dividing each image into an X number of blocks, wherein one or more blocks represent a central area and a foreground area;

(c) computing histograms for each block, and block histogram intersection values obtained from comparisons between histograms from corresponding blocks from each image;

(d) determining whether each block histogram intersection value for at least those blocks surrounding the center block is higher than a threshold T_1,

and determining whether the number of intersection values below the threshold T_1 are not greater than a certain number N;

(e) computing an average histogram intersection value of the foreground area, and determining whether the average block histogram intersection value of the foreground area is not lower than a threshold T_2;

(f) determining whether the average histogram intersection value of the foreground is higher than a threshold T_3;

(g) determining whether an average of the X number of block histogram intersection values is higher than a threshold T_4;

(h) determining whether the average of the X number of block histogram intersection values is higher than a threshold T_5; and

(i) utilizing the determinations made in steps (d) through (h) to determine if any of the images are duplicates.

15 (original). The method as recited in claim 14 wherein said step (h) further provides that $T_5<T_4$.

16 (original). The method as recited in claim 14 wherein said step (b) comprises dividing each image into a configuration of 4x4 or fewer blocks.

17 (original). The method as recited in claim 16 wherein said step (b) comprises dividing each image into a configuration of 3x3 blocks.

18-19 (cancelled).

20-34 (cancelled).

35 (new). A computer program product for detecting duplicate images comprising: a computer readable storage medium having a computer program stored thereon for performing the steps of:

(a) providing a plurality of images captured at determinable times;

(b) dividing each image into an X number of blocks, wherein one or more blocks represent a central area and a foreground area;

(c) computing histograms for each block of each image, and block histogram intersection values obtained from comparisons between histograms from corresponding blocks from each image;

(d) determining whether each block histogram intersection value for at least those blocks surrounding the central area is higher than a threshold T_1, and determining whether the number of intersection values below the threshold T_1 are not greater than a certain number N;

(e) computing an average histogram intersection value of the foreground area, and determining whether the average block histogram intersection value of the foreground area is not lower than a threshold T_2;

(f) determining whether the average histogram intersection value of the foreground is higher than a threshold T_3;

(g) determining whether an average of the X number of block histogram intersection values is higher than a threshold T_4;

(h) determining whether the average of the X number of block histogram intersection values is higher than a threshold T_5;

(i) determining whether the time difference between capture of the images is less than a threshold T_6;

(j) determining whether the average of the X number of block histogram intersection values is higher than a threshold T_7; and

(k) determining whether the time difference between the capture of the images is less than a threshold T_8; and

(l) utilizing the determinations made in steps (d) through (k) to determine if any of the images are duplicates.

36 (new). The computer program product as recited in claim 35 wherein said step (h) further provides that $T_5<T_4$.

37 (new). The computer program product as recited in claim 35 wherein said step (j) further provides that $T_5<T_4<T_7$.

38 (new). The computer program product as recited in claim 35 wherein said step (k) further provides that $T_6<T_8$.

39 (new). The computer program product as recited in claim 35 wherein said step (b) comprises dividing each image into a configuration of 4x4 or fewer blocks.

40 (new). The computer program product as recited in claim 39 wherein said step (b) comprises dividing each image into a configuration of 3x3 blocks.

41 (new). The computer program product as recited in claim 35 wherein said step (b) comprises dividing each image into a configuration of 4x4 or 3x3 blocks.

42 (new). A computer program product for detecting duplicate images comprising: a computer readable storage medium having a computer program stored thereon for performing the steps of:

(a) providing a plurality of images;

(b) dividing each image into an X number of blocks, wherein one or more blocks represent a central area and a foreground area;

(c) computing histograms for each block, and block histogram intersection values obtained from comparisons between histograms from corresponding blocks from each image;

(d) determining whether each block histogram intersection value for at least those blocks surrounding the center block is higher than a threshold T_1, and determining whether the number of intersection values below the threshold T_1 are not greater than a certain number N;

(e) computing an average histogram intersection value of the foreground area, and determining whether the average block histogram intersection value of the foreground area is not lower than a threshold T_2;

(f) determining whether the average histogram intersection value of the foreground is higher than a threshold T_3;

(g) determining whether an average of the X number of block histogram intersection values is higher than a threshold T_4;

(h) determining whether the average of the X number of block histogram intersection values is higher than a threshold T_5; and

(i) utilizing the determinations made in steps (d) through (h) to determine if any of the images are duplicates.

43 (new). The computer program product as recited in claim 42 wherein said step (h) further provides that $T_5<T_4$.

44 (new). The computer program product as recited in claim 43 wherein said step (b) comprises dividing each image into a configuration of 4x4 or fewer blocks.

45 (new). The computer program product as recited in claim 44 wherein said step (b) comprises dividing each image into a configuration of 3x3 blocks.

46 (new). The computer program product as recited in claim 42 wherein said step (b) comprises dividing each image into a configuration of 4x4 or 3x3 blocks.

47 (new). A system for detecting duplicate images comprising:

(a) means for providing a plurality of images captured at determinable times;

(b) means for dividing each image into an X number of blocks, wherein one or more blocks represent a central area and a foreground area;

(c) means for computing histograms for each block of each image, and block histogram intersection values obtained from comparisons between histograms from corresponding blocks from each image;

(d) means for determining whether each block histogram intersection value for at least those blocks surrounding the central area is higher than a threshold T_1, and determining whether the number of intersection values below the threshold T_1 are not greater than a certain number N;

(e) means for computing an average histogram intersection value of the foreground area, and determining whether the average block histogram intersection value of the foreground area is not lower than a threshold T_2;

(f) means for determining whether the average histogram intersection value of the foreground is higher than a threshold T_3;

(g) means for determining whether an average of the X number of block histogram intersection values is higher than a threshold T_4;

(h) means for determining whether the average of the X number of block histogram intersection values is higher than a threshold T_5;

(i) means for determining whether the time difference between capture of the images is less than a threshold T_6;

(j) means for determining whether the average of the X number of block histogram intersection values is higher than a threshold T_7; and

(k) means for determining whether the time difference between the capture of the images is less than a threshold T_8; and

(l) means for utilizing the determinations made in steps (d) through (k) to determine if any of the images are duplicates.

48 (new). A system for detecting duplicate images comprising:

(a) means for providing a plurality of images;

(b) means for dividing each image into an X number of blocks, wherein one or more blocks represent a central area and a foreground area;

(c) means for computing histograms for each block, and block histogram intersection values obtained from comparisons between histograms from corresponding blocks from each image;

(d) means for determining whether each block histogram intersection value for at least those blocks surrounding the center block is higher than a threshold T_1, and determining whether the number of intersection values below the threshold T_1 are not greater than a certain number N;

(e) means for computing an average histogram intersection value of the foreground area, and determining whether the average block histogram intersection value of the foreground area is not lower than a threshold T_2;

(f) means for determining whether the average histogram intersection value of the foreground is higher than a threshold T_3;

(g) means for determining whether an average of the X number of block histogram intersection values is higher than a threshold T_4;

(h) means for determining whether the average of the X number of block histogram intersection values is higher than a threshold T_5; and

(i) means for utilizing the determinations made in steps (d) through (h) to determine if any of the images are duplicates.